

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated October 1, 2010. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending in the Application. Claims 1 and 7 are independent claims.

In the Office Action, claims 4, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection of claims 4, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully traversed. However, in the interest of expediting consideration and allowance of the pending claims, the Applicants have elected to amend the claims to simplify and clarify that which is recited in the claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4, 8, and 9 are in proper form and it is respectfully requested that this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101(b) as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, claim 1 is amended to recite that the receiving, replicating, and sending of the requests is performed by a network interface device and that the mapping is performed by an address space and a facility. Claim 7 is similarly amended. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejected claims are in proper form and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), over "Core Based Trees (CBT) An Architecture for Scalable Inter-Domain Multicast Routing", ACM SIGCOMM Computer Comm Review, vo1.23 Issue 4 pg.85-95, October

1993, ("Ballardie") in view of Multicast Architectures, O'Reilly Network, 08/10/2010, ("Norton") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,117,273 to O'Toole ("O'Toole"). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Ballardie in view of Norton and O'Toole and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,772,219 to Shobatake ("Shobatake"). The rejections are respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that the rejected claims are allowable over Ballardie in view of Norton, O'Toole, and Shobatake for at least the following reasons.

The present application addresses a problem explained in the Abstract where a first module having addresses that identify locations within second modules simultaneously, replicates and sends a request to the second modules. This causes a large burden on the first module. The solution, as for example substantially recited in claim 1, is to provide a multicast request to the second modules not from the first module, but rather in response to a single request from the first module. Also see page 1, line 19 to page 2, line 18 of the specification for a further discussion. In accordance with claim 1 for example, "an address space and a facility for mapping the at least one multicast address reference onto a plurality of address space addresses in a range of addresses" is provided where "each range is associated with addresses of one of the second electronic modules ...". Accordingly, the only remaining burden on the first module is to send a request along with a connection identifier (CID) that identifies a multicast connection to the network interface.

The Office Action cites from Ballardie as describing the following (see, Office Action, bottom of page 5 continuing to page 6):

wherein a core node receives a multicast message and replicates the multicast message to other non-core nodes, wherein the non-core routers further replicates the received multicast message to other non-core nodes, and so on.

This, as explained above, is not what is recited in claim 1. The Office Action even admits that "the addressing scheme is not explicitly disclosed by Ballardie". Accordingly, the Office Action introduces Norton, to explain the addressing scheme of multicasting in a network. Further, to explain an integrated circuit including a network, the Office Action introduces O'Toole. However, the combination of Ballardie, Norton, and O'Toole fails to teach, disclose, or suggest the recitations of claim 1. In particular, Ballardie's core node receives and replicates the multicast message itself. As such, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Ballardie of (illustrative emphasis added) "a network interface device for receiving a single request including at least one multicast address reference from the first electronic module, replicating the single request into at least two replicated requests, and sending each of the at least two replicated requests to the respective second electronic modules", as for example recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, Ballardie, Norton, and O'Toole do not teach, disclose, or suggest (illustrative emphasis added) "an address space and a facility for mapping the at least one multicast address reference onto a plurality of address space addresses in a range of addresses of the address space, each range is associated with addresses of one of the second electronic modules", as for example recited in claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Ballardie in view of Norton and O'Toole. For example, Ballardie in view of Norton and O'Toole does not teach, disclose or suggest, amongst other patentable elements, (illustrative emphasis provided) "a network interface device for receiving a single

request including at least one multicast address reference from the first electronic module, replicating the single request into at least two replicated requests, and sending each of the at least two replicated requests to the respective second electronic modules; and an address space and a facility for mapping the at least one multicast address reference onto a plurality of address space addresses in a range of addresses of the address space, each range is associated with addresses of one of the second electronic modules, wherein each of the at least two replicated requests is sent by the network interface to the second electronic modules using its associated range of addresses of the address space" as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited by claim 7.

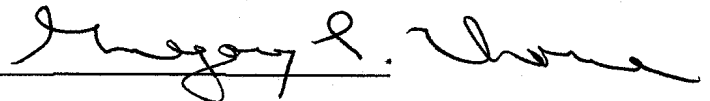
Shobatake is cited to show elements of the dependent claims and as such, does not remedy the above discussed failings of Ballardie in view of Norton and O'Toole.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 7 are patentable and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 3-6 and 9 depend from claim 1 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration and allowance of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position, or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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